

**Feasibility Analysis of an American Indian
Multi-Purpose Facility in East St. Paul**

**Update of a demographic database for American Indians in the
Twin Cities**

Conducted on behalf of
American Indian Policy Center

Prepared by
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August 2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. COPC Acknowledgement/Disclaimer.....	p. 3
2. Introduction	p. 4
3. Multi-Purpose Facility.....	p. 4
a. Background	p. 4
b. Methods.....	p. 4
c. Findings.....	p. 4
d. Summary/Recommendations	p. 5
4. Demographic Database Update.....	p. 6
a. Introduction	p. 6
b. Key Findings and Conclusion	p. 6

Appendices

Appendix A: Open-Ended Responses From Multi-Purpose Facility Survey	p. 7
Appendix B: Demographic Database Updated Charts and Data.....	p. 9

August 24, 2001

COPC Acknowledgement/Disclaimer

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East Side COPC is coordinated by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota in partnership with Macalester College, Metropolitan State University, East Side Neighborhood Development Company, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services, Phalen Corridor Initiative, District 4 Community Council, District 5 Community Council, East Side Work Resource HUB, American Indian Policy and Research Institute, American Indian Family Center, The Urban Coalition, Minnesota Campus Compact, Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association.

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under an award with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The AIPC is solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government.

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Introduction

The research in this project was divided into two parts: 1) Analyzing the feasibility of an American Indian Multi-Purpose Facility in St. Paul. 2) Begin updating a demographic database for American Indians. As a two-month assignment, this is the beginning of a long process to compile relevant data. Therefore this is a summary of what has been done with the expectation that future work is needed to complete this research.

MULTI -PURPOSE FACILITY

Background

As a result of previous interviews, discussions and talking circles within the St. Paul American Indian community, an idea for a Multi-Purpose Facility was born. The purpose of a July 2001 survey was to answer if a Multi-Purpose Facility should be created and if so where should it be located and what services should be offered.

Methods

A survey was developed to gain insight into the needs of the American Indian community in St. Paul, especially East St. Paul. Direct and indirect questions were used to obtain specific answers as well as ideas and comments from respondents. Surveys were given to five local agencies with instructions to encourage St. Paul residents, specifically American Indians, to complete the survey. Overall, 57 completed surveys were returned.

Results

Respondent Characteristics:

Out of the 44 female responses, 40 were from American Indians. Out of the 13 male responses, 11 were from American Indians. Therefore, 89% of the 57 responses were from American Indians from a variety of tribal affiliations. The age of respondents ranged from ten-to-66 years old, with an average age of 47.9 and a median age of 34. Furthermore, 21 of the 57 respondents (or 36.8%) have children living with them. The 43 total children living with respondents range in age, with 34.9% birth to five years old, 32.6% six to twelve years old, 20.9% thirteen to eighteen years old, and 11.6% eighteen years or older.

Responses to a Multi-Purpose Facility:

Of the 57 responses, 55 (or 98.21%) answered that the St. Paul Indian community needs a Multi-Purpose facility. One American Indian female answered that a facility of this type is not needed because there are “enough social service[s].” One respondent did not answer this question.

In response to “Where would you see a Multi-Purpose Facility be most needed?” 59% of responses for this question indicate the East Side needs a facility the most. Of the remaining choices listed for the respondents, 15% think Summit-University needs a facility the most, 10% responded Frogtown, 9% responded North End, and 6% responded West Side. One person indicated “Other” and wrote in that the Midway area needs a facility of this type.

The responses for the question “Who would benefit from community services the most?” give some indication of who needs services. Respondents were asked to check “all that apply,” so these results are a tally of all the responses for each age group. Families were the highest response that needs services the most with 19.8% of the responses. The second most responses (17.4%) came for youth thirteen-to-eighteen years old. Youth from six-to-twelve years and women both had 17.0% of the responses. Men had 16.21% responses and children ages birth to five-years-old had

12.7% of the responses. One person added the category of “Elders.” Please note that more females than males responded to the survey.

Ranks are given from tallying responses to the question “At what times would a Multi-Purpose Facility be most needed?” The first choice for times needed is “after school.” There was a tie for second choice between “During the day” and “Evenings.” “Weekends” were the third choice and “Summers” were the fourth choice for when a Facility would be most needed.

Some questions were open-ended questions, which are summarized here. In order to avoid excluding the valuable opinions of respondents, a more thorough list of responses is given in Appendix A. Replies as to why the St. Paul Indian community needs a Multi-Purpose Facility mainly focus on a large space to bring American Indian’s together in one place to learn from each other, strengthen families, strengthen the community, have meetings and hold religious services. Some comments suggest there are fragmented services and a lack of large spaces for gathering that are accessible to the St. Paul Indian community. Some respondents indicate a central location with easy client access would be helpful to meet the needs of adults, families, youth and children. Furthermore, respondents gave several suggestions for “cultural, social and/or human service needs” in the Indian community. A large need appears to be a place for families to gather and a place for teens and youth to gather in a safe, positive atmosphere. A large area for ceremonies, such as pow-wows, wakes, and sweats, conferences, and talking circles is an expressed need in the community. Ideas for activities include youth activities, recreation programs, recreation areas, religious activities, cultural activities, youth childcare, games, and classes, such as cultural awareness classes, history classes, tutoring classes, drum and dance classes, art classes and parenting classes. Finally, services that could be offered are health and wellness, housing, employment, labor and legal support. Overall, the respondents to the survey think this is a “great idea” and think a Multi-Purpose Facility would be a positive addition to the community, but action needs to be taken to get this facility actually running.

Summary/Recommendations

From this survey, we were able to sample the opinions of the American Indian community in St. Paul. Due to the high approval and positive nature of the feedback, a Multi-Purpose Facility would be beneficial to the American Indian community. To move forward into making this facility operational, three major decisions need to be made: 1) What services will be provided? 2) Where will this facility be located? 3) Who will be in charge of making this facility operational?

From the suggestions in the survey, here are my recommendations for a Multi-Purpose Facility. There should be a large gathering area in this facility, which can be used for American Indians as a place to socialize, learn and accommodate religious activities and ceremonies. There should be large kitchen so that food can be prepared for the activities. There should be a gathering area where youth can gather in a safe atmosphere with a place for recreation and learning opportunities. Maybe the youth could help take ownership in this facility by helping prepare for other activities. A place for elders and youth to teach and learn from each other might be another way to provide educational and community strengthening opportunities. The building needs to be a place for the whole family to gather, so maybe there should be separate areas for different ages and a larger room for activities bringing the families and the community together.

From this sampling, a location in the East Side of St. Paul should be the first place to look for a site for this facility. However, a large enough facility for gatherings should be the primary concern, which may mean that other areas around the East Side need to be considered.

This preliminary report establishes that a Multi-Purpose center is needed and wanted. A more in-depth and extensive feasibility effort must be done to bring the concept to life.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATABASE UPDATE

Introduction

The previous report by the American Indian Policy Center, entitled American Indians in St. Paul: A Preliminary Data Report, is based on data available at the time. Since the printing of this report, new information is available, such as the 2000 Census data and current school student information. The purpose of this research project is to update this data to enable the American Indian Policy Center to provide the most current information to the community and policy makers.

Additional data is also being collected for Minneapolis in hopes that a more accurate picture of American Indians in the Twin Cities can be provided to the community. This may develop into one large data report or separate reports for Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Key Findings

The charts found in Appendix B are a compilation of data collected over the last two months. As stated in the American Indians in St. Paul: A Preliminary Data Report, the American Indian Policy Center's "goal is to make these statistics accessible" to the community. Furthermore, "it is the reader's role to investigate the reasons behind this data, to draw connections among different statistics, and to interpret the data's significance." These statistics are snapshots of the community that should be used as a tool in observing trends in the community. However these statistics cannot show the whole picture of the community. Therefore, this data needs to be used in conjunction with other sources to fully understand trends or discrepancies in the data.

Additionally, the race/ethnicity categories in the 2000 Census are defined different than the categories from previous census data. In other words, there are more racial/ethnic categories in the 2000 Census, which means that it is difficult to compare the 2000 Census data to 1980 or 1990 Census data. Research and training sessions are now being offered by the Urban Coalition to determine the most effective ways to compare the 2000 Census data with previous years.

In order to complete an update of the American Indians in St. Paul: A Preliminary Data Report, information needs to be gathered for the topics of Social Services, Economics and Health in St. Paul. Furthermore, this same information needs to be collected for Minneapolis to provide a larger picture of American Indians in our community.

Appendix A

Open-Ended Question Responses From Multi-Purpose Facility Survey

These are actual responses from the surveys, but are combined for easier reading.

1. Why or why not does the St. Paul Indian Community need a Multi-Purpose facility?

a. Why?

- i. Growing number of natives in the community
- ii. More native youth guidance; Be better for all the other kids and for kids who want to get away from problems for a few hours. To help lots of parents
- iii. Enrich children's minds besides T.V and the streets; use for personal growth
- iv. Provide safe alternatives for socializing and enriching their lives
- v. Services are fragmented. Meet multiple needs of adults, families and children in one location. Easier for client access to services, only need to make one trip. Wouldn't have to run all over to get to different things going on. This would seem to be beneficial.
- vi. It would be helpful to have a central location for meetings and religious services
- vii. Organizations with racial specific issues/services are essential for communities, particularly Native Americans.
- viii. Need a place for American Indians to hang out – somewhere positive and can get help. Meet new friends and learn from each other. Bring native community together and strengthen families. Help to strengthen community circles and improve our communities and families. Provide a center for community activities. Due to infant mortality rates, historical traumas incurred, multiple needs of most families' cultural connectedness.
- ix. Individual and family services, Multi-Purpose area, use for tribal elections, museum/art gallery.; Traditional, cultural, education need to be exercised.
- x. Would also give the American Indian community visibility.
- xi. Urban Indians need a focal point for services and a gathering place.
- xii. May help addiction or alcoholics to see different style of life. May teach youngsters to respect selves and others too.
- xiii. Support/Communication/Togetherness
- xiv. To make our St. Paul Indian Community stronger, plus have more resources in St. Paul.
- xv. Yes, there are not enough facilities to service the Indians in St. Paul, this facility would be a good start. Minneapolis services are not accessible for our community. Other than Mounds Park, which may not be available and the costs to use it, there are no large areas for community wide events. There are some places, but if they are in use there's no where else to go. A gathering place so we can all do culture activities, wakes, dinners, etc...
- xvi. Yes, this has been a great need, which I've noticed about the past 5 years (how long this person worked in St. Paul.); There is not a gathering place here in St. Paul. We need a large space for community activities, spiritual ceremonies, funerals, and weddings.
- xvii. I work for an Indian agency that could utilize a multi-purpose facility for our cultural events that require more room than we have.
- xviii. Right size congregational area –to play, study – WITH SUPERVISION
- xix. Our needs are different (culturally speaking). We have lots of needs. Everybody needs a good place to go! It helps the community immensely with resources and the other alternatives.

b. Why not?

- i. Enough social services.

2. In your opinion, what cultural, social and/or human service needs could a Multi-Purpose facility in the Indian community be used for?

a. Who to Serve:

- i. People who really need support, teens, youth, meet multiple needs of families, bring together and enrich families, just Indians, Indian adults, homeless adults, diversion from criminal activities

b. Types of Groups to offer:

- i. Support group, youth group, gathering place, counseling, community place for people to come together to strengthen lives & family relationships, cultural specific groups

c. For Ceremonies:

- i. Pow-wows, feasts, funerals, socials, ceremonies (like name givings and recognition), birthday gatherings, graduation, weddings, family gatherings, wakes, tribal get-togethers, sweats, pot-lucks, services, religious services
- d. For Meetings:
 - i. Conferences, organized community talking circles, open meetings, voting, community meetings and gatherings, gathering place for business, speakers, office programming –to make things more accessible
- e. Activities:
 - i. Youth activities (like sports, recreation center, after-school study center, a place to hang-out, a drop-in center for youth, and after-school activities), gym, activity rooms, recreation programs, recreation area for children, religious activities, cultural activities and events, social events-with an area to socialize, meet new people, child care, day care, youth childcare, kid's activities, Bingo, games for whole family,
- f. Classes:
 - i. Nutrition/budgeting classes, learn cultural awareness and history, maybe learn something new, pre-school, tutoring, job training, parenting/ECFE classes, Indian practices and traditional ways, education (higher), education and economic independence training, maybe GED once a week, In-service topics for community – esp. for new moms, teach alternatives to negative lifestyles, native language classes (like Ojibwe or Lakota), mentoring program, art classes, music classes, swimming classes, dance classes, family classes, drum/dance classes
- g. Services to offer:
 - i. Medical, medical clinic, Chemical dependence help and counseling, legal assistance, psychological services – evaluation and support, mental health and human services, family support, health and wellness, housing and employment (services within Indian community in Ramsey could also help in a Multi-Purpose facility), job placement assistance/training, computer training, low income housing, history, shelter, food services, food shelter resources, food stamp distribution for emergency, clothing, furniture needs, labor support, legal, getting apartment updates, using phones, AA meetings, help people feel good about themselves, teach each other to help one another w/o needing a payoff for self, help stop the violence, show respect for others, social services, everything, it is a tragedy that the east-metro has no place to hold ceremonies or to bring our dead. This place should be open for all types of healing. Could use for tribal members to make contact with home tribal offices for services like enrollment and educational needs,

3. Any additional comments or ideas?

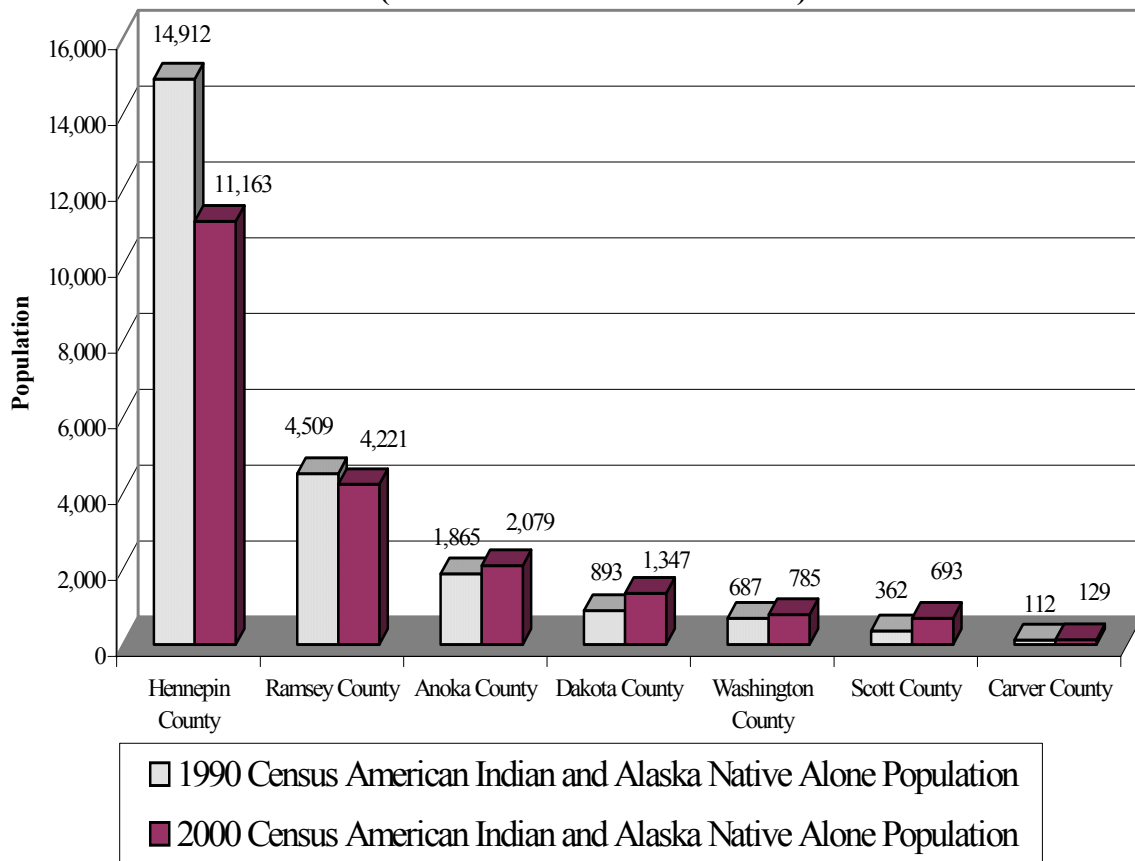
- a. Great idea - about time someone places this to action
- b. A community assessment is needed which brings together comments to create, design, build and commit to a multi-purpose center.
- c. It is difficult to decide where this facility should be. Where in my opinion is not as important as when.
- d. Family support and support from our community is the first step to independence and freedom.
- e. Of Course Ramsey Co. is somewhat lacking in services for Indians compared to Hennepin Co. It would be cool to see OIC working in collaboration w/ any Indian Community Services facility! * Employment
- f. I think developing programming for teens & pre-teens is important - give them something to do in a positive way & that allows learning traditional ways. Also, childcare (on a sliding fee scale - or something to make accessible for low income families) would benefit the community.
- g. There aren't enough woman shelters for single woman
- h. Native peoples need a community center for ceremonies
- i. What ever we need to do to keep our center open, is what we need to strive for!; Location: where it's easy for our community to access.
- j. I think we need this. It will be good for the People we've needed something to really make a difference and this could be it. There can never be too many resources for Native people. A very good thing that will happen in St. Paul.
- k. A place like this has been the topic of a few meetings and beyond that not much more has been done.
- l. This would be a dream come true if it could happen- not just filling a survey form for one or hopes of one!!!

Appendix B:

American Indian Population - Seven County Metro Area

(American Indian and Alaska Native Alone)

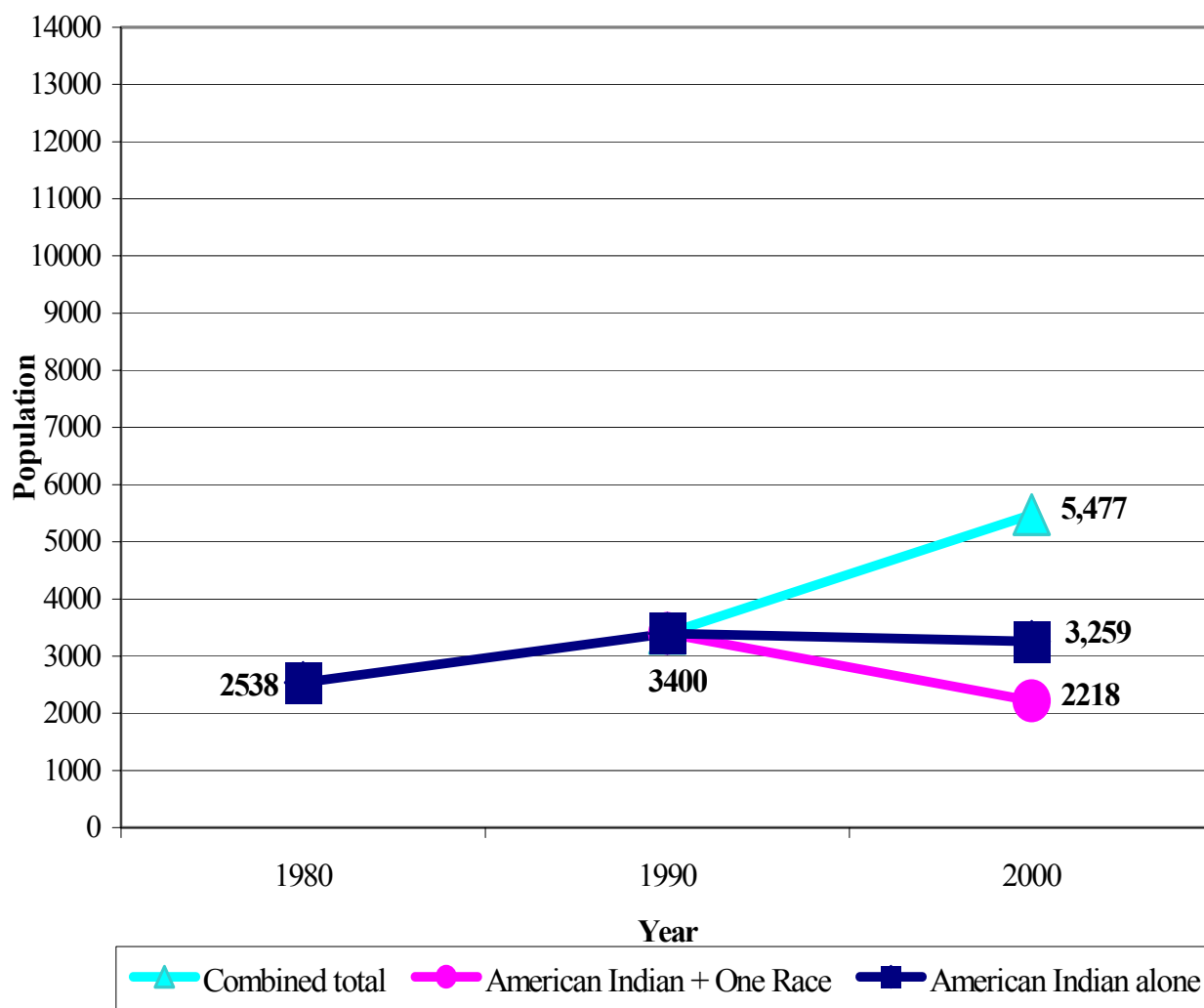
(Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census)



- The 2000 data are extracted from the 2000 Census. The 2000 numbers are not directly comparable with the 1980 and 1990 numbers because the race categories have been redefined.
- These numbers represent only those American Indians who marked their race as “American Indian and Alaska Native Alone.” These numbers **DO NOT** include the American Indians who marked American Indian and another race. This was only an option in the 2000 Census, not in 1990.

St. Paul American Indian Population Trends

(Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census)

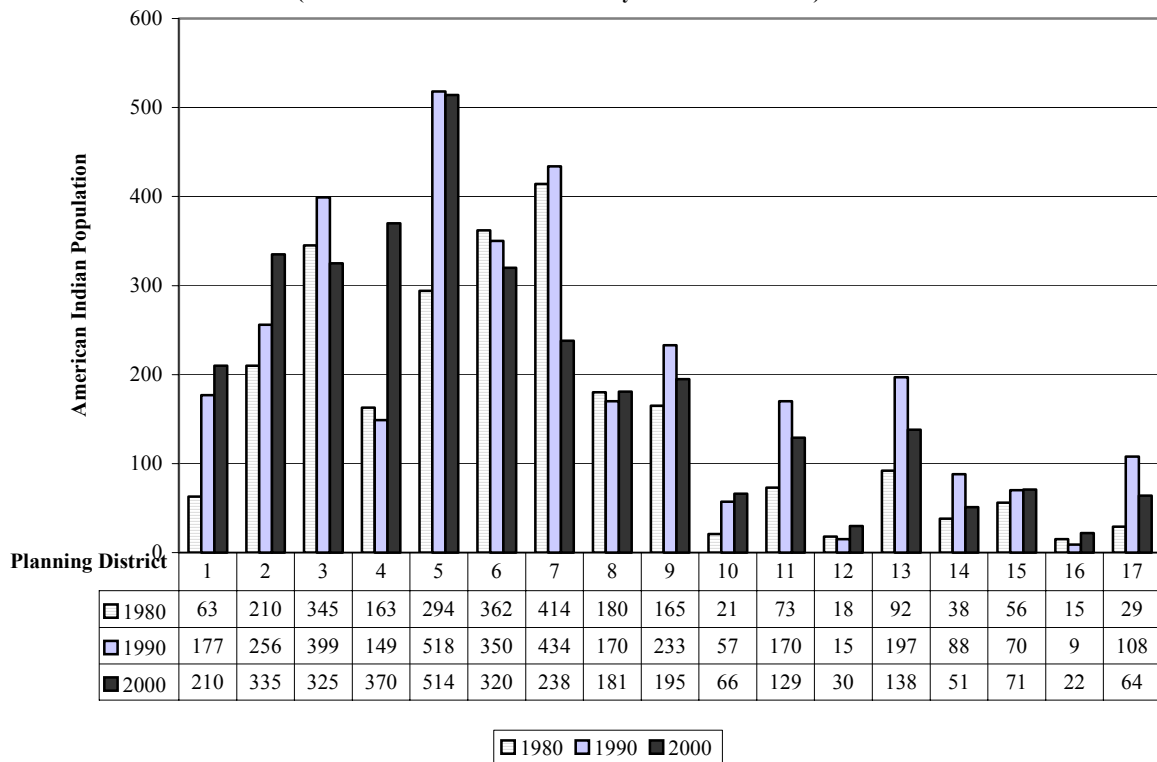


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- The American Indian plus One Race category includes those American Indians that also marked one other race. This was only an option in the 2000 Census.
- The Combined total is the sum of the “American Indian alone” and the “American Indian plus One Race” categories for the 2000 data.

American Indian Population in St. Paul by Planning District

(American Indian and Alaska Native alone)

(Source: U.S. Census Data from City of St. Paul Website)

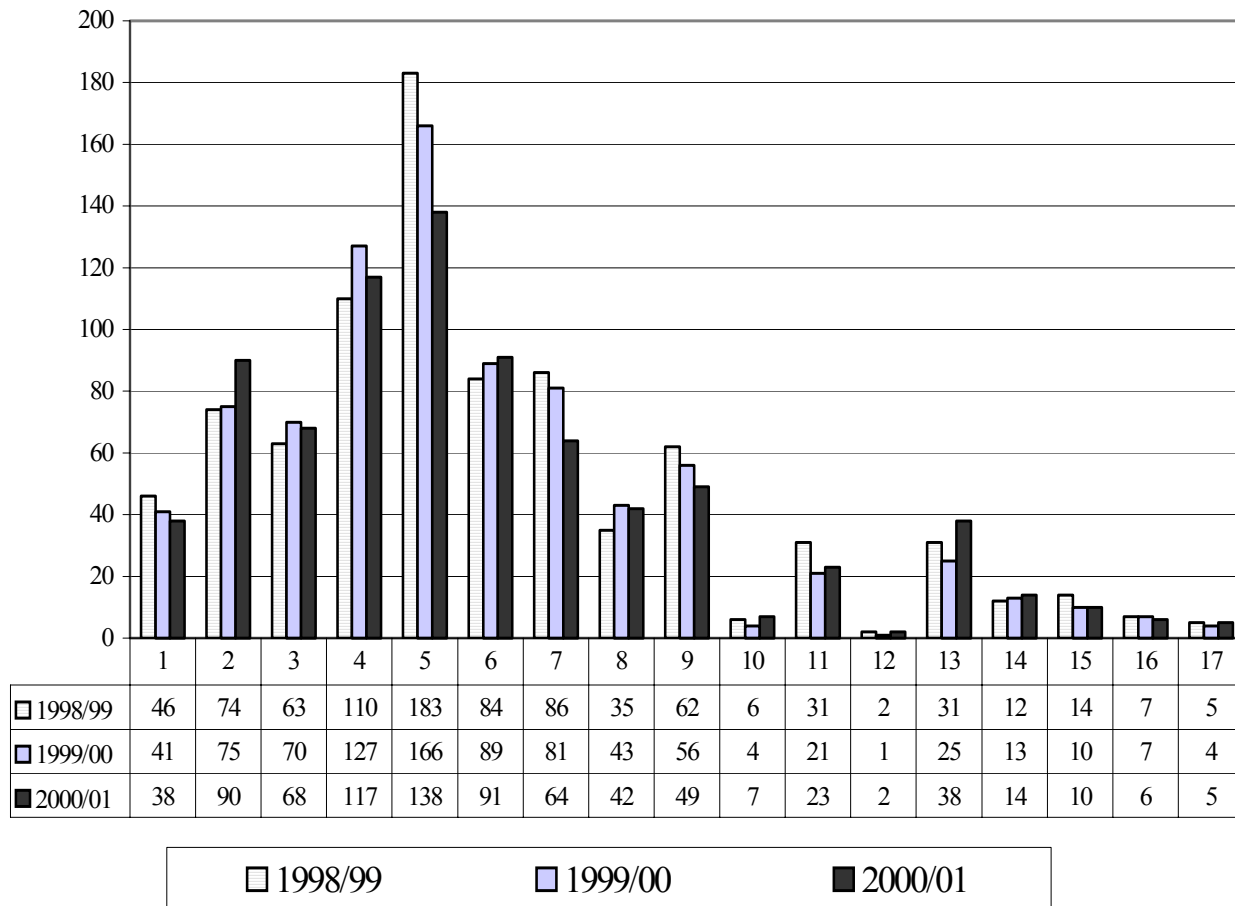


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- The numbers in this chart represent only those American Indians who marked their race as “American Indian and Alaska Native Alone.” These numbers **DO NOT** include the American Indians who marked American Indian and another race. Marking more than one race was only an option in the 2000 Census, not in 1980 or 1990 Census.
- **Planning Districts**
 - 1. Sunray, Battle Creek, Highwood
 - 2. Hazel Park, Hayden Heights, Prosperity Heights, Hillcrest
 - 3. West Side
 - 4. Dayton’s Bluff
 - 5. Payne-Phalen
 - 6. North End
 - 7. Thomas – Dale
 - 8. Summit-University
 - 9. West Seventh
 - 10. Como
 - 11. Hamline Midway
 - 12. St. Anthony Park
 - 13. Merriam Park, Snelling Hamline, Lexington-Hamline
 - 14. Macalester-Groveland
 - 15. Highland
 - 16. Summit Hill
 - 17. Downtown

American Indian Students by Planning District, 1998/99 - 2000/01

St. Paul School District

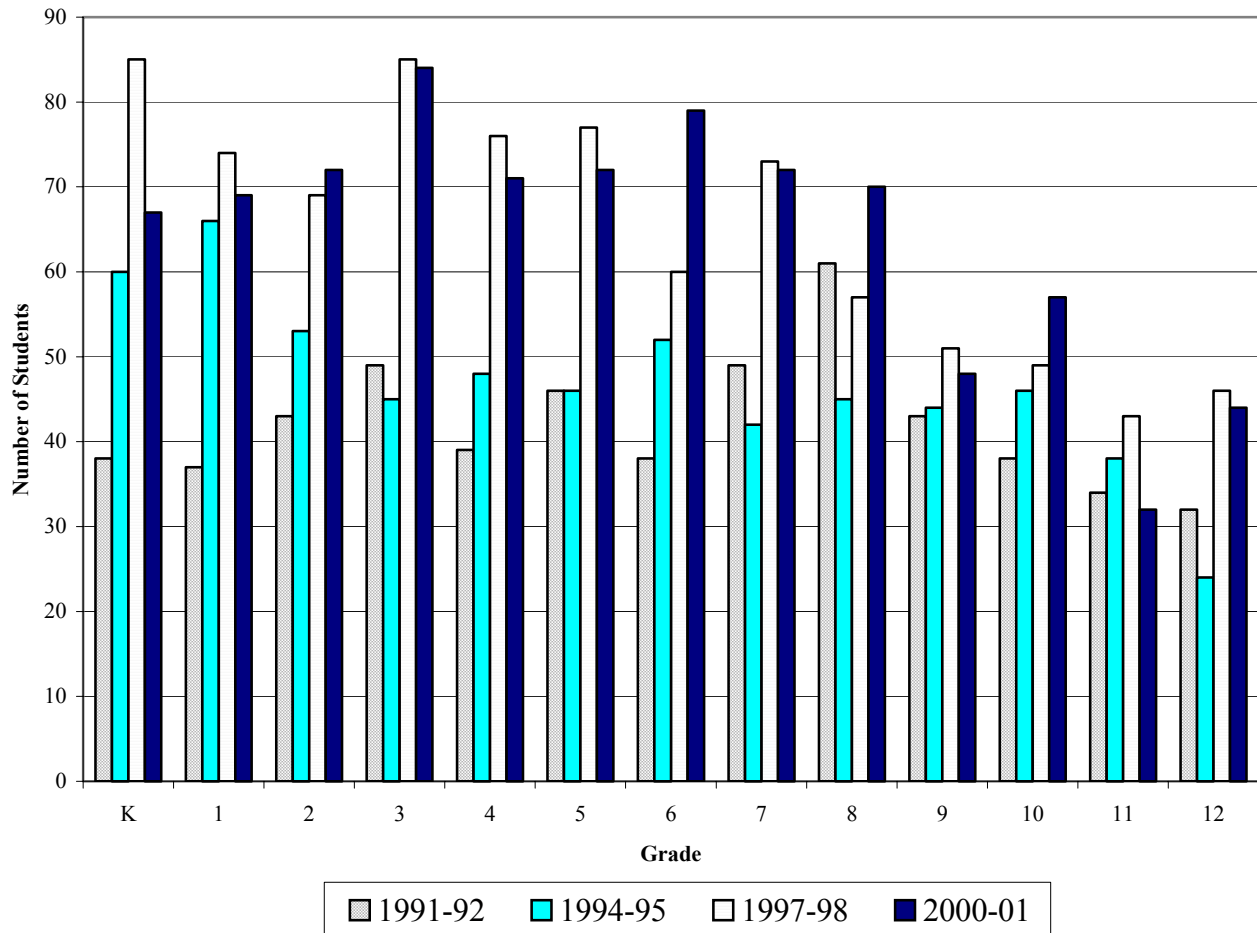
(Source: St. Paul Public Schools)



- The total number of American Indian students in 2000/01 was 802, which decreased from 851 American Indian students in 1998/99.
- The number of students in each district represents the number of American Indian students attending schools in that district. This number DOES NOT represent where the student lives.
- **Planning Districts**

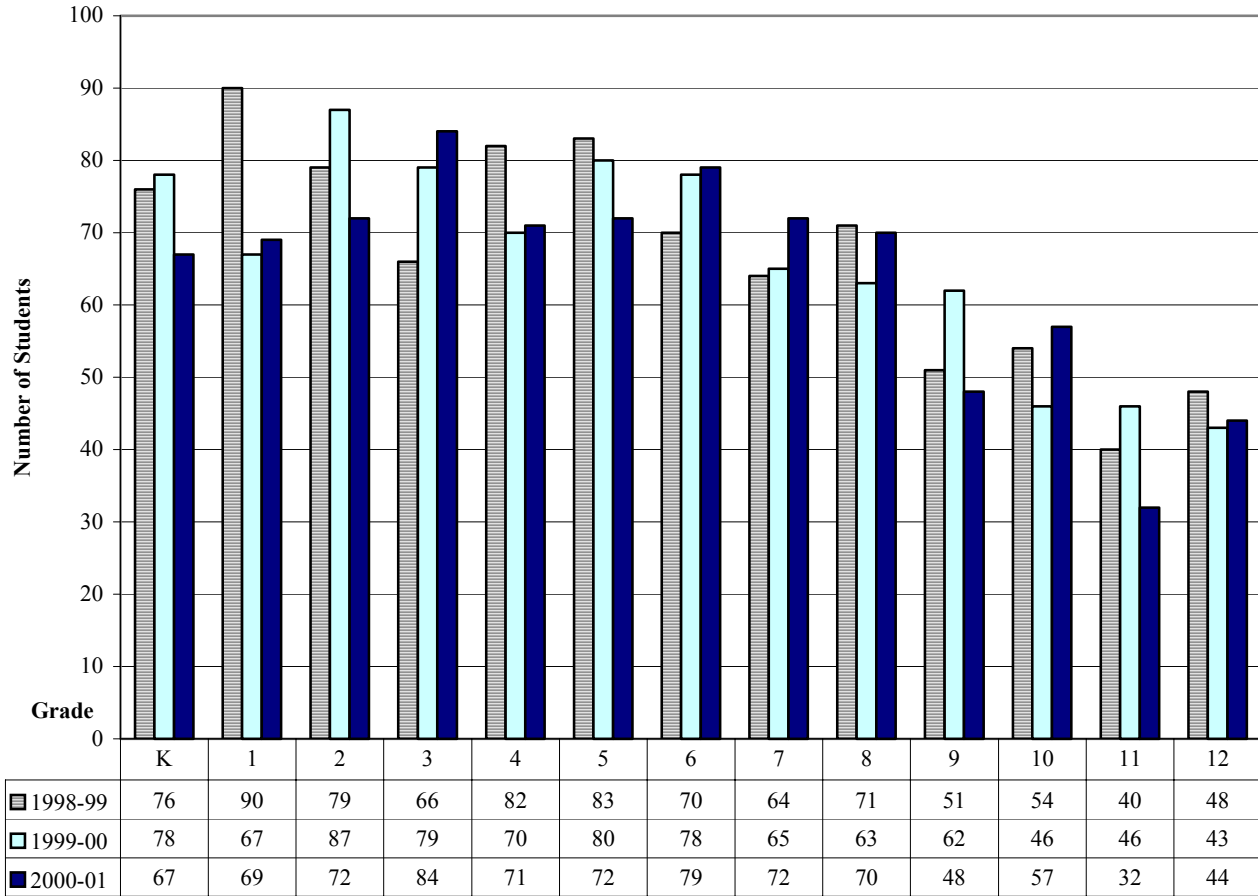
1. Sunray, Battle Creek, Highwood 2. Hazel Park, Hayden Heights, Prosperity Heights, Hillcrest 3. West Side 4. Dayton's Bluff 5. Payne-Phalen 6. North End 7. Thomas – Dale 8. Summit-University 9. West Seventh	10. Como 11. Hamline Midway 12. St. Anthony Park 13. Merriam Park, Snelling Hamline, Lexington-Hamline 14. Macalester-Groveland 15. Highland 16. Summit Hill 17. Downtown
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American Indian Students by Grade for Selected Years
St. Paul School District
 (Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



- These numbers were derived from data from the Minnesota Department of Children and Family Learning.
- Each column represents the number of students enrolled in that grade for each specified year.

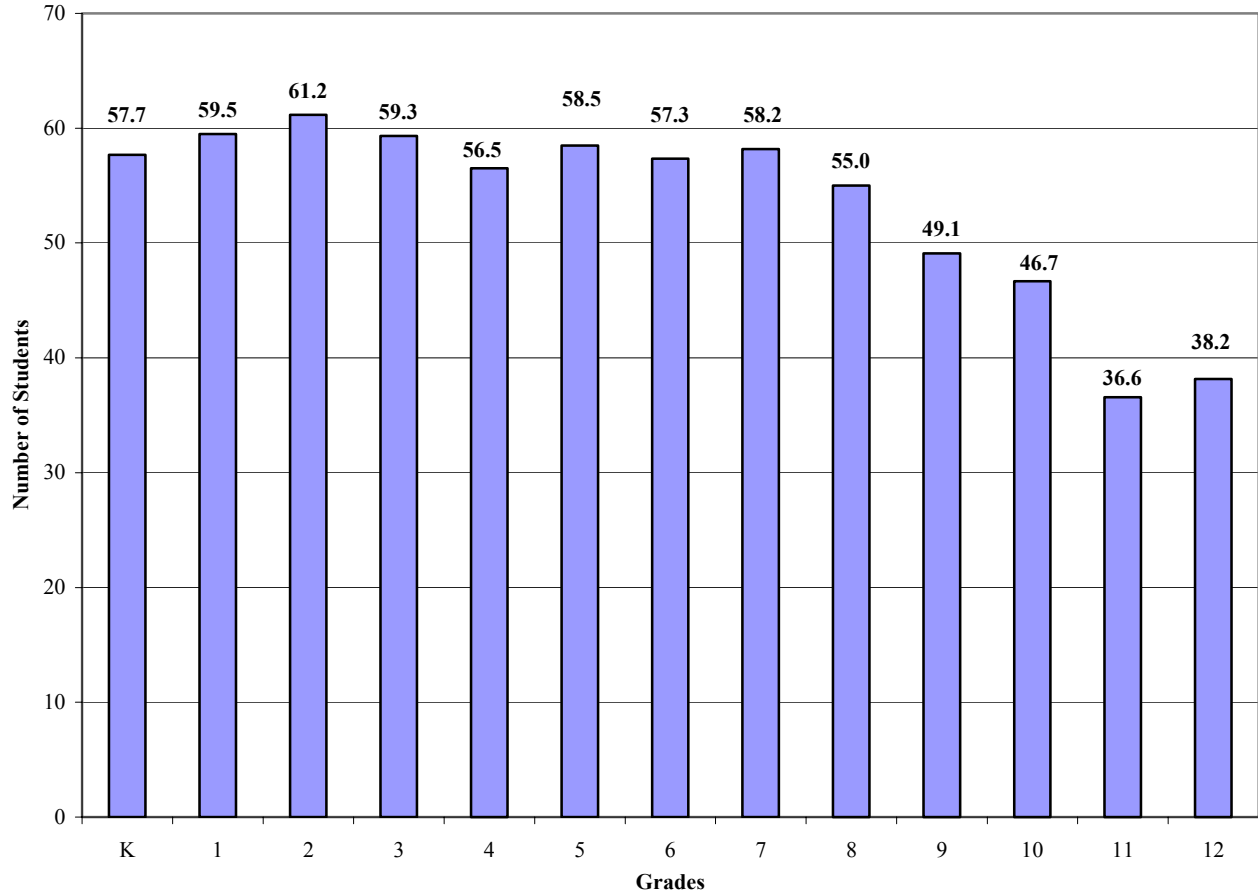
American Indian Students by Grade, 1998/99 to 2000/01
(St. Paul School District)
(Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



- These numbers were derived from data from the Minnesota Department of Children and Family Learning.
- Each column represents the number of students enrolled in that grade for each specified year.

**St. Paul Average Number of American Indian Students By Grade,
1989/90 to 2000/01**

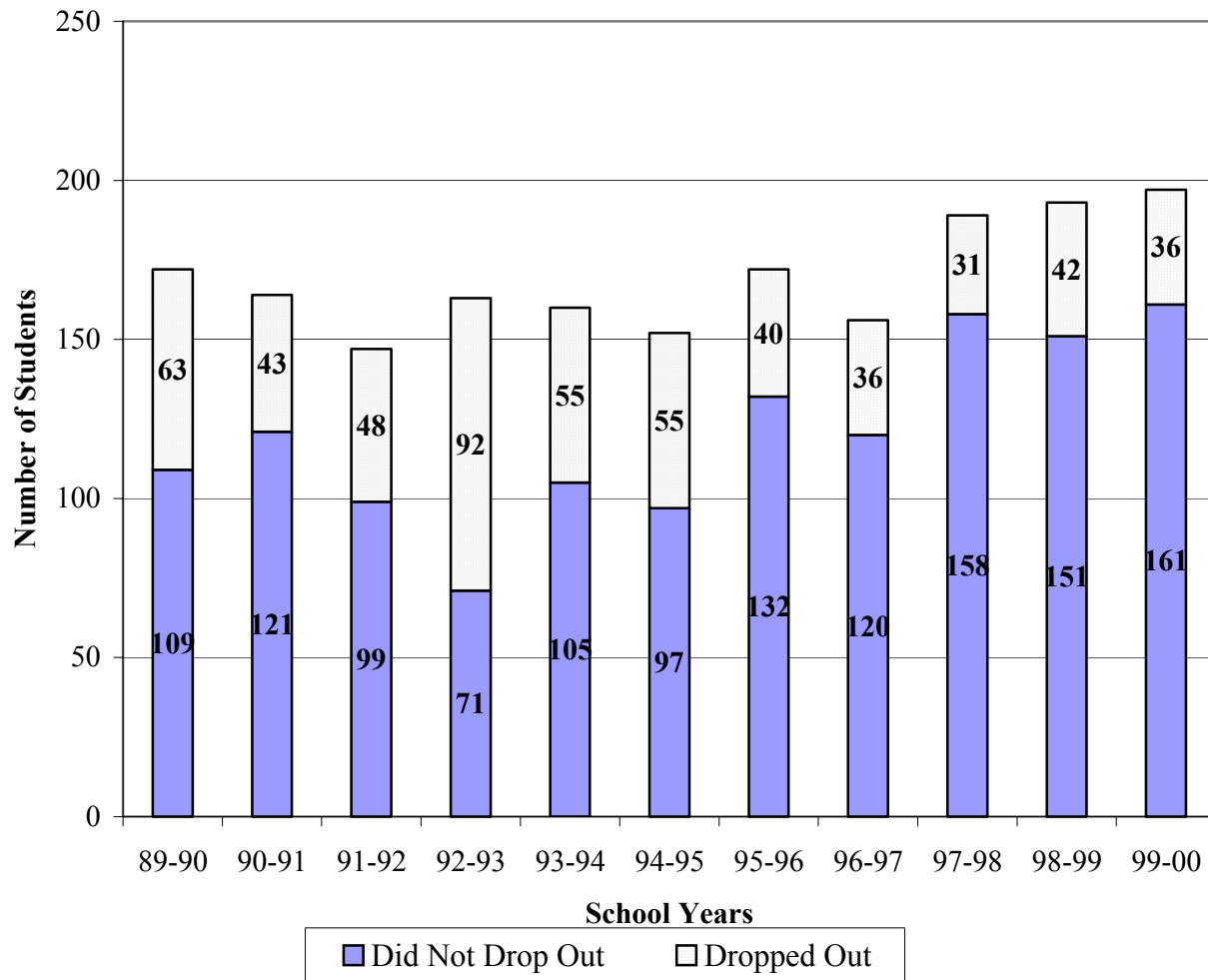
(Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



- The numbers for this table were calculated from data provided by the Minnesota Department of Children and Family Learning.
- Using data from academic years 1989/90 to 2000/01, each column represents the average enrollment of American Indian students for that grade level.

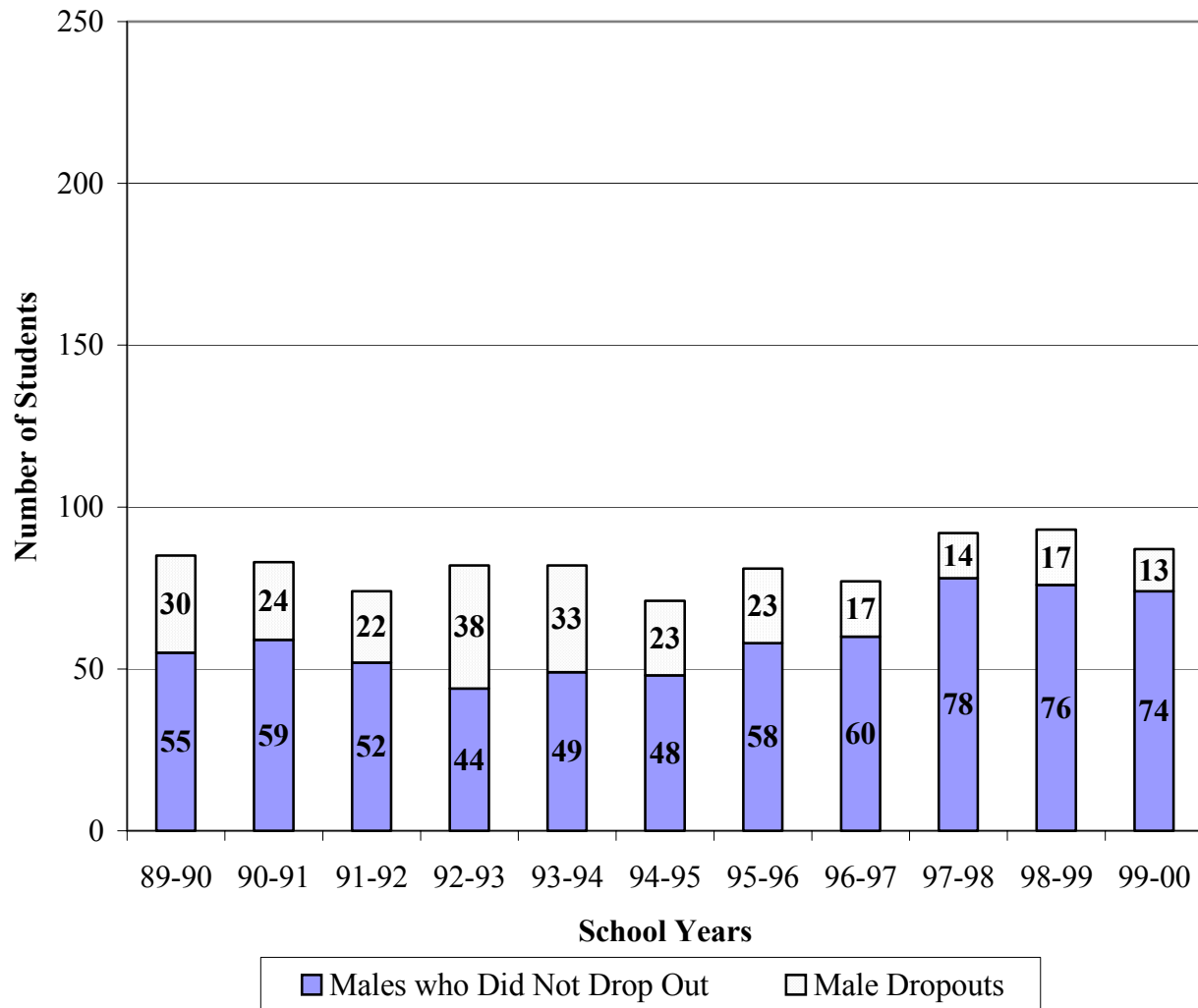
St. Paul American Indian Student Dropouts, Grades 9-12

(Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



- These numbers were derived from data from the Minnesota Department of Children and Family Learning.
- Each column represents the total number of students enrolled in the St. Paul School District in Grades 9-12 for that year. The lighter shaded portion of the column represents the number of American Indian students that dropped out in that year. The darker shaded portion is the difference between total enrolled students and those that dropped out.

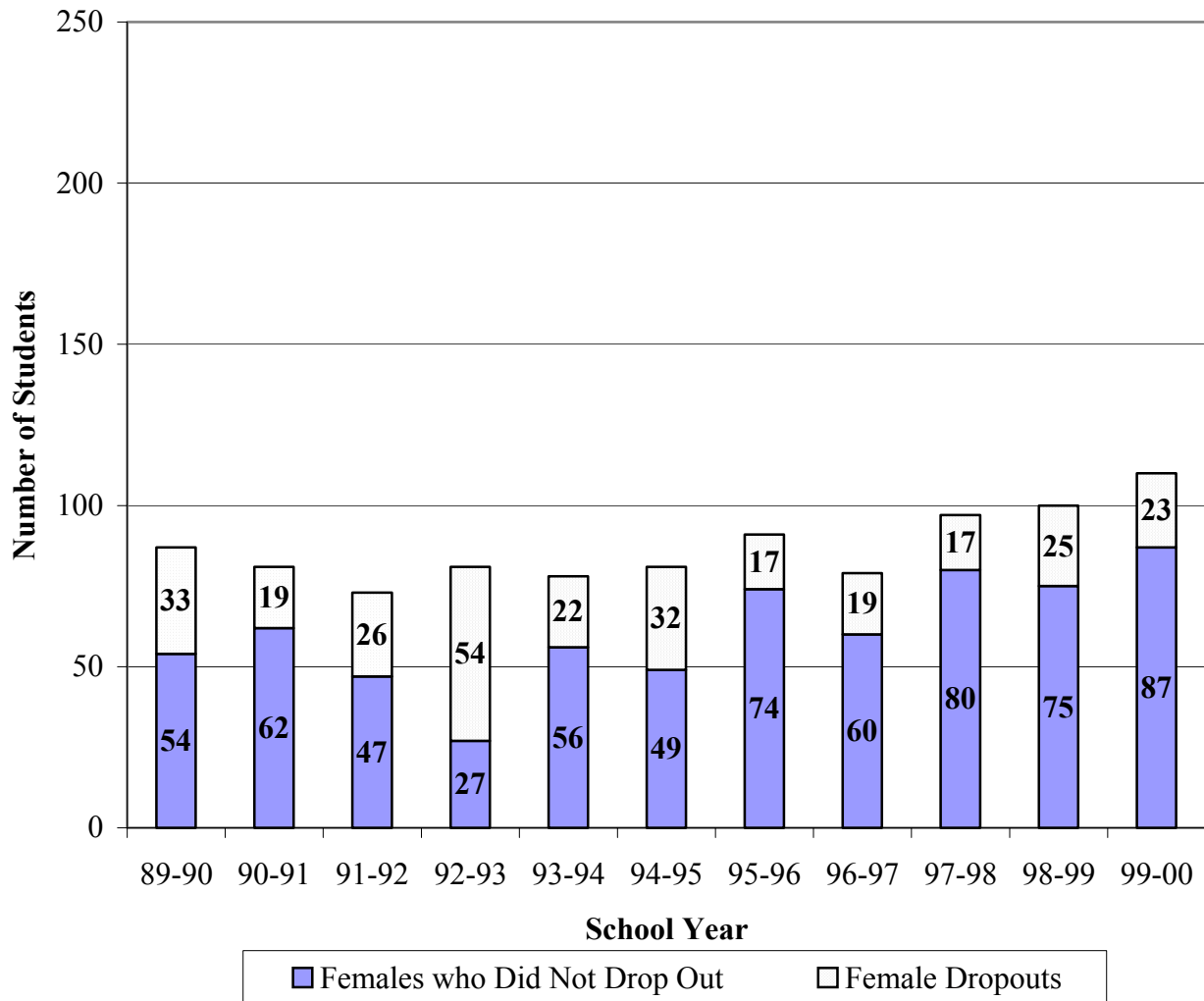
St. Paul American Indian MALE Student Dropouts, Grades 9-12
(Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



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St. Paul American Indian FEMALE Student Dropouts, Grades 9-12

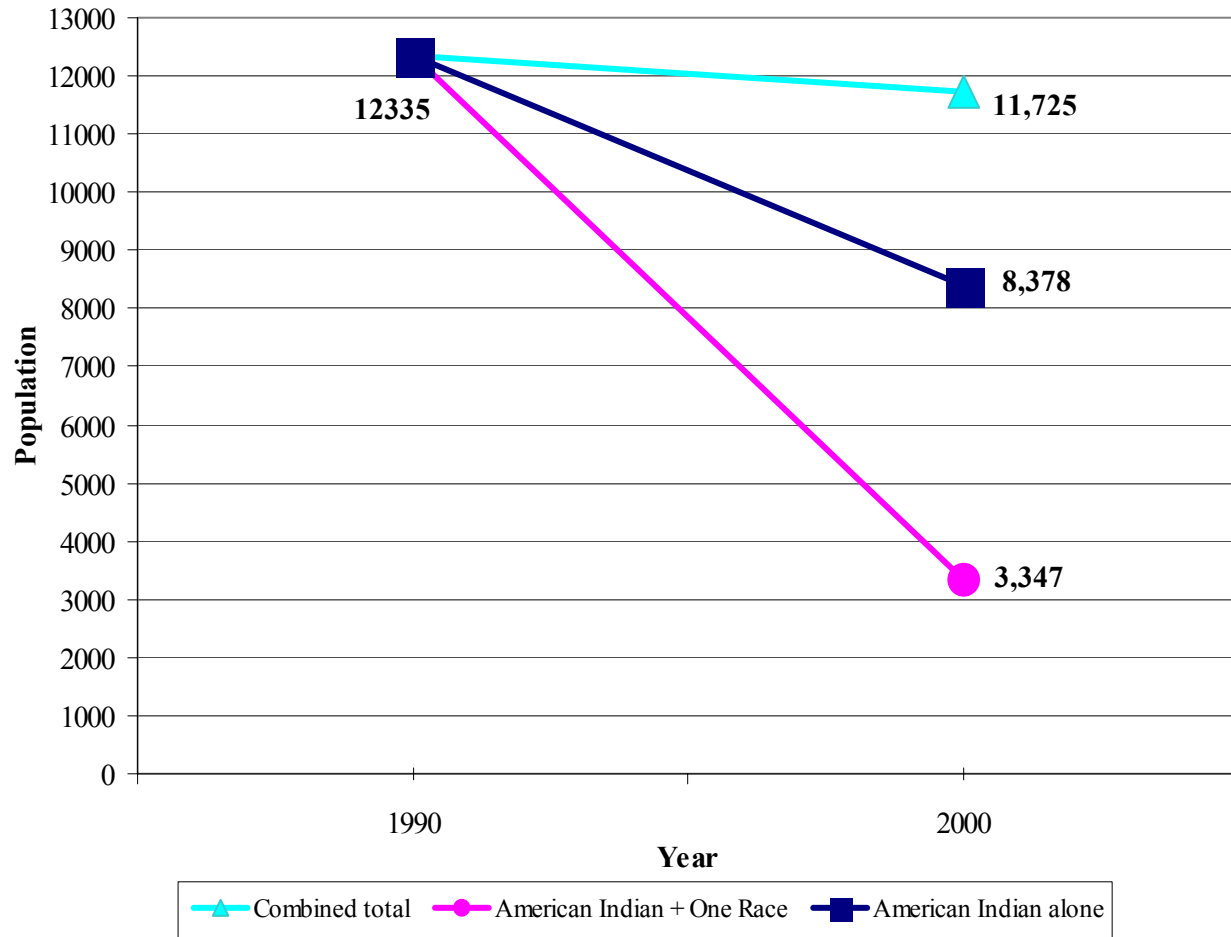
(Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



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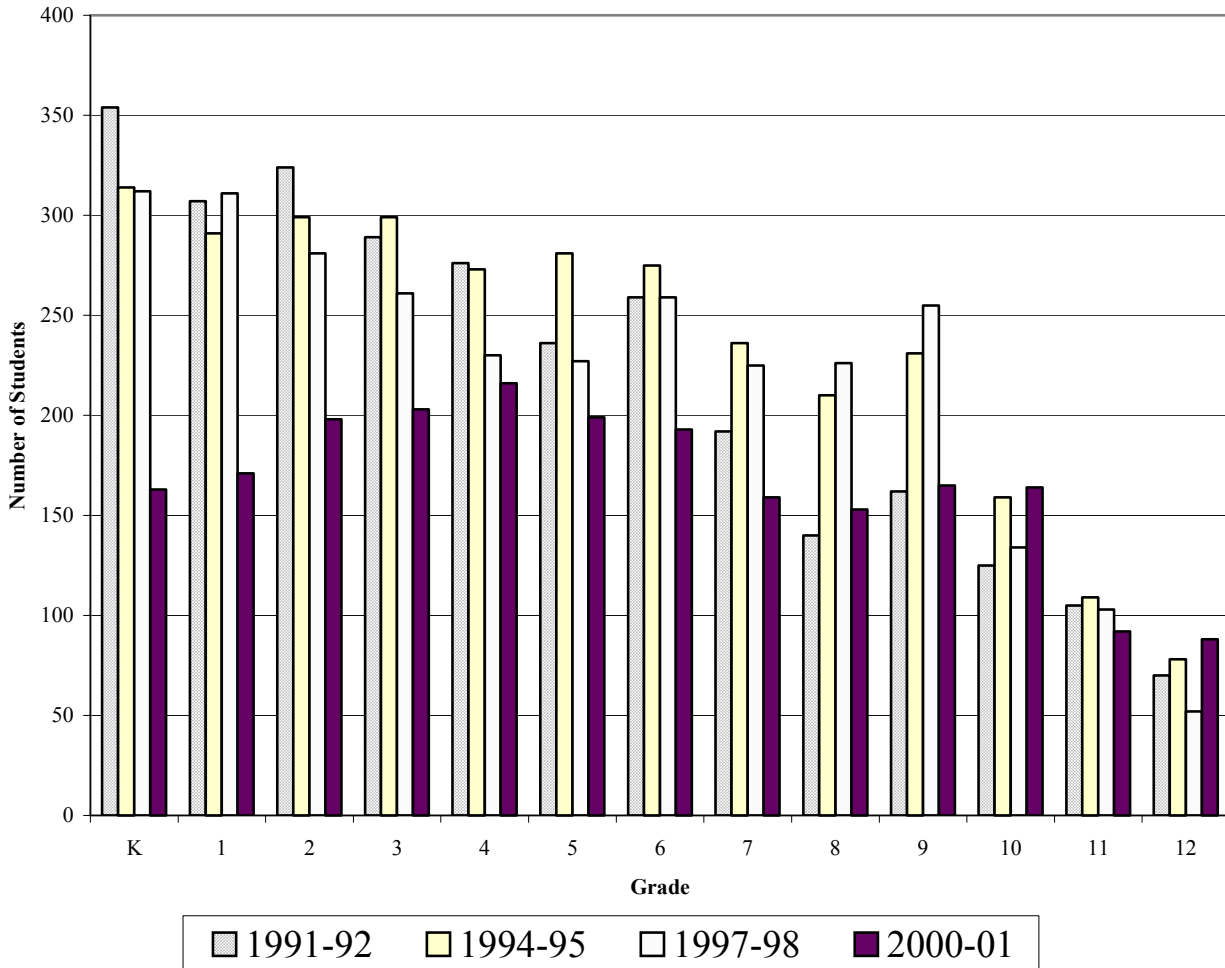
Minneapolis American Indian Population Trends

(Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census)



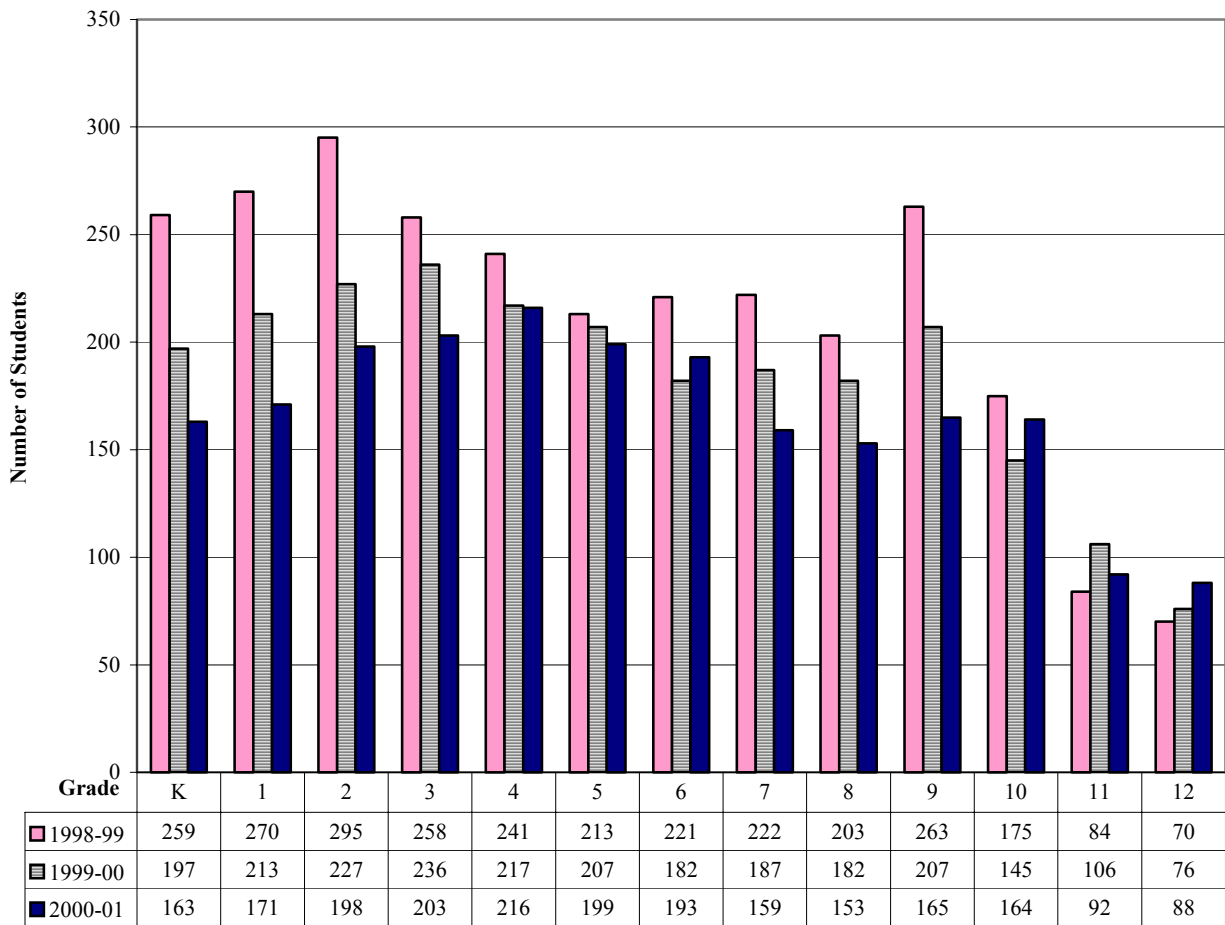
- The 2000 data are extracted from the 2000 Census. The 2000 numbers are not directly comparable with the 1980 and 1990 numbers, because the race categories are defined different.
- The American Indian plus One Race category includes those American Indians that also marked one other race. This was only an option in the 2000 Census.
- The Combined total is the sum of the “American Indian alone” and the “American Indian plus One Race” categories for the 2000 data.

Minneapolis American Indian Students by Grade for Selected Years
Minneapolis School District
 (Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



- These numbers were derived from data from the Minnesota Department of Children and Family Learning.
- Each column represents the number of students enrolled in that grade for each specified year.

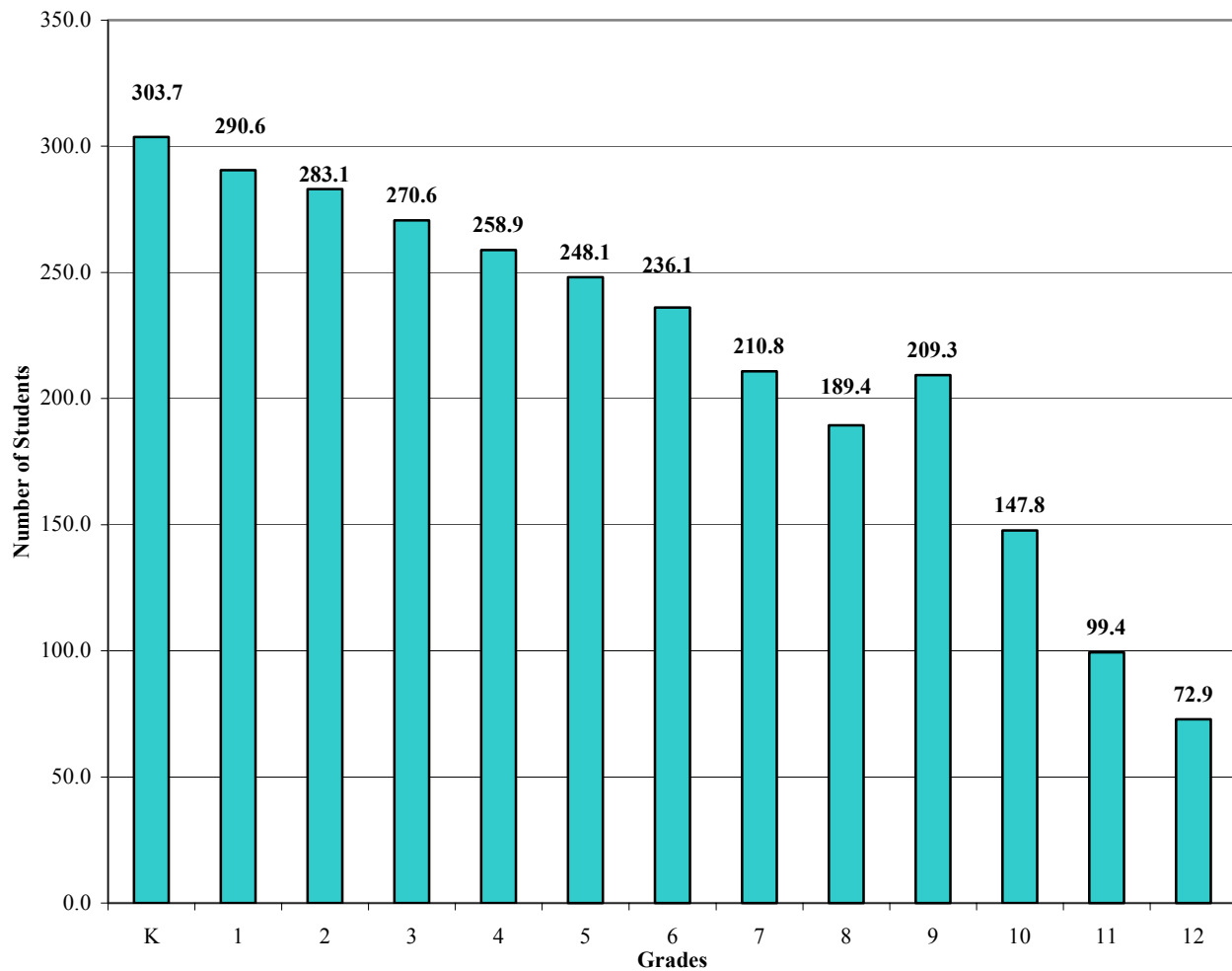
Minneapolis American Indian Students by Grade, 1998/99 to 2000/01
Minneapolis School District
 (Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



- These numbers were derived from data from the Minnesota Department of Children and Family Learning.
- Each column represents the number of students enrolled in that grade for each specified year.

**Minneapolis Average Number of American Indian Students By Grade,
1989/90 to 2000/01**

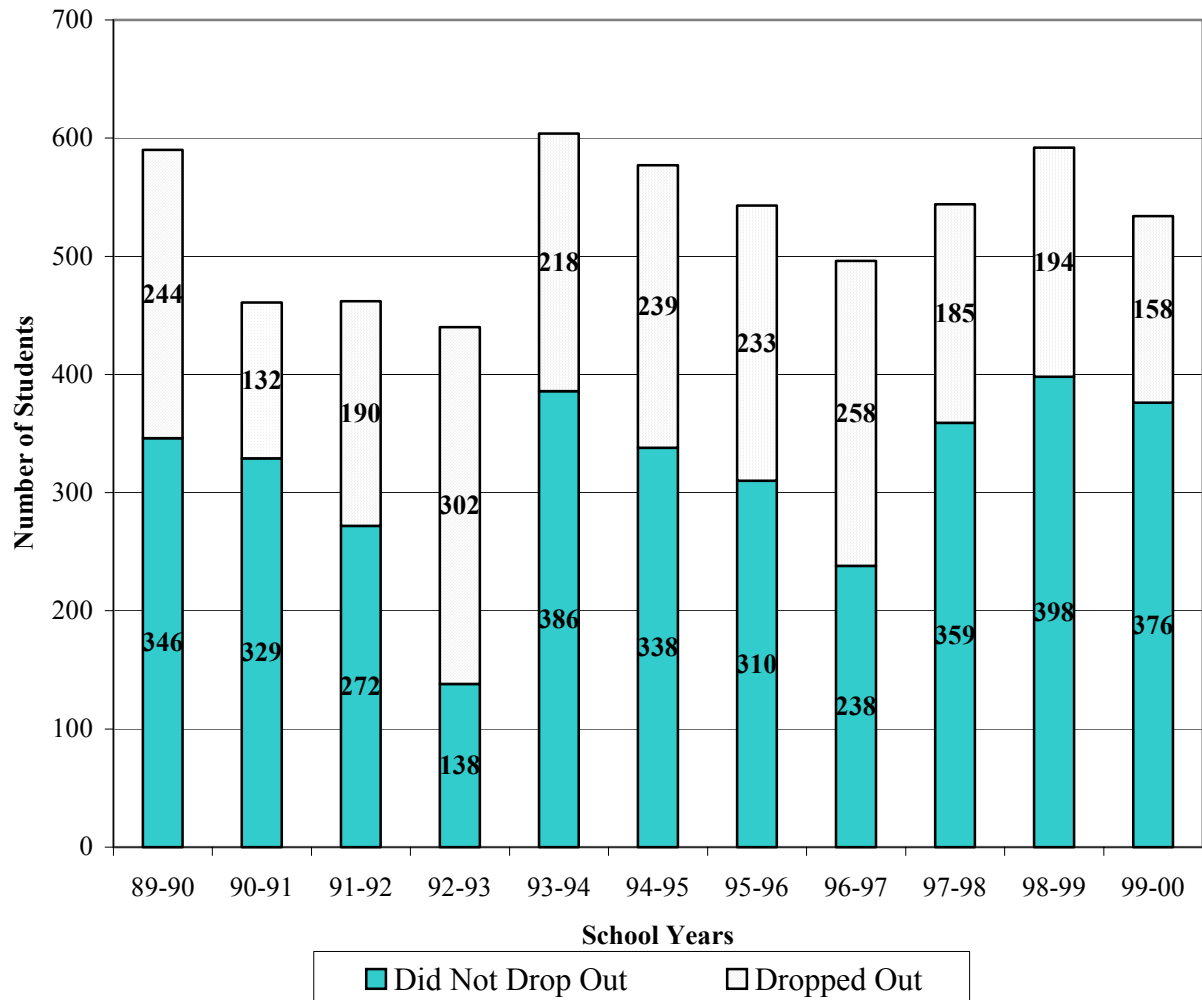
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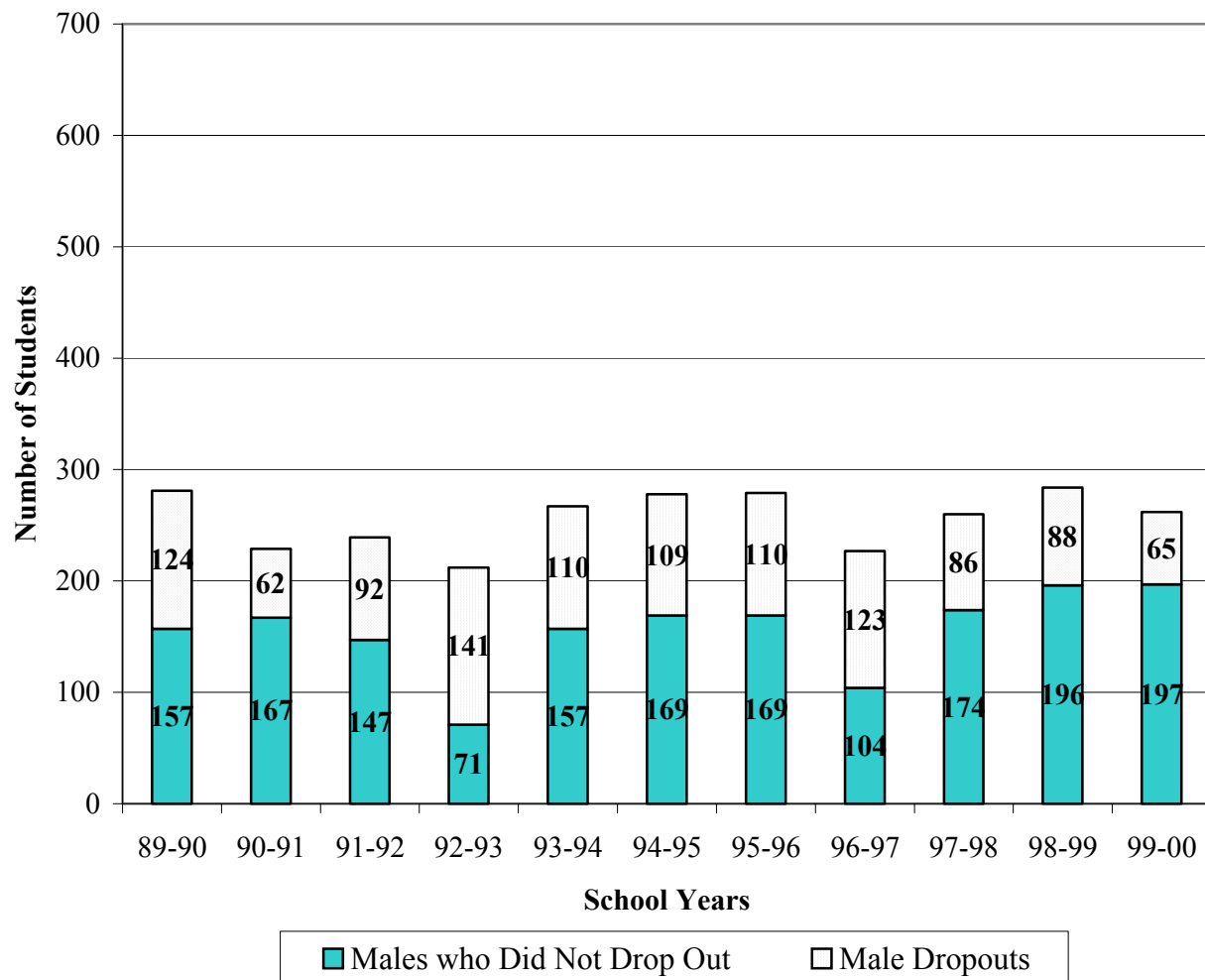
Minneapolis American Indian Student Dropouts, Grades 9-12

(Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



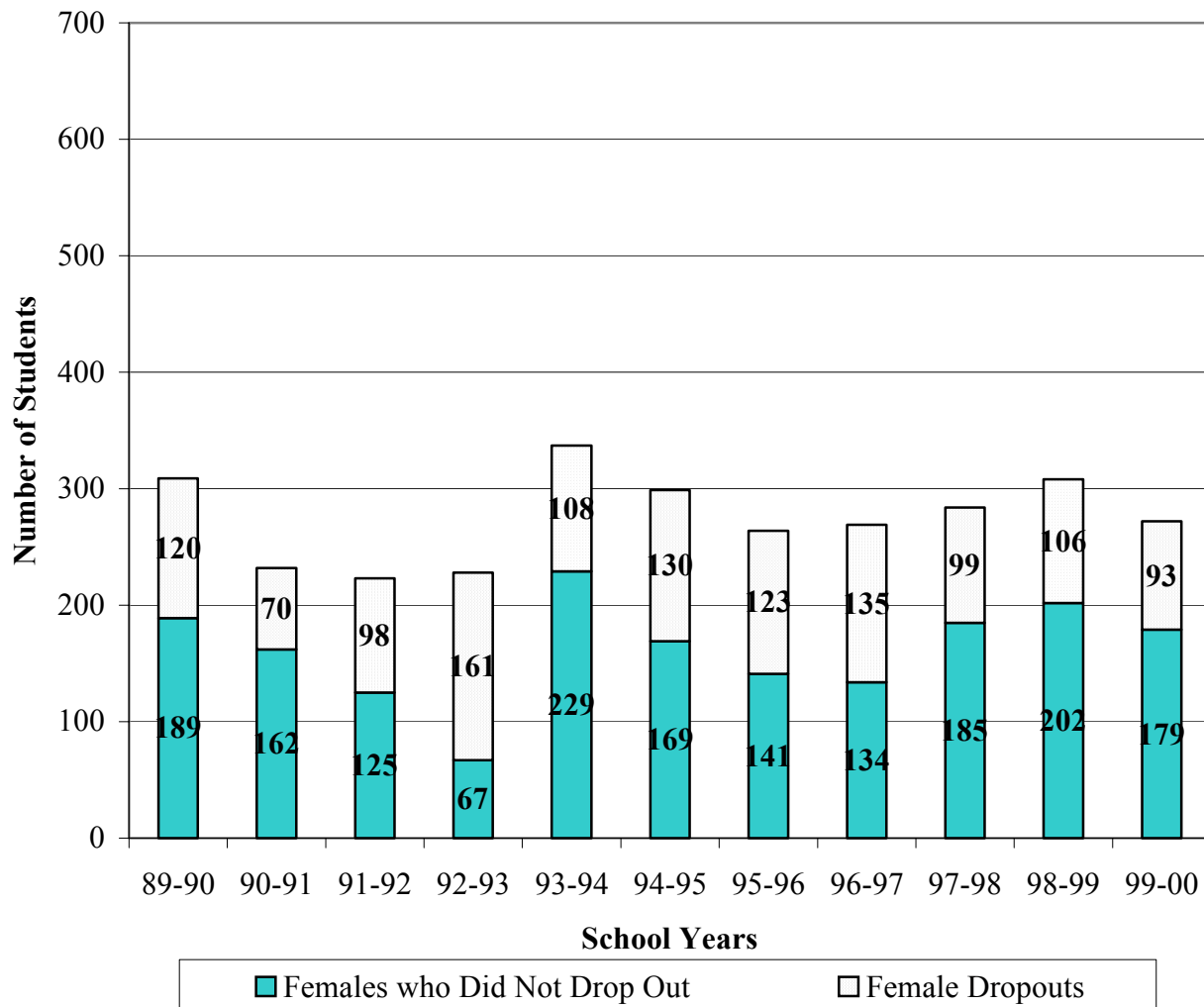
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- Each column represents the total number of students enrolled in the St. Paul School District in Grades 9-12 for that year. The lighter shaded portion of the column represents the number of American Indian students that dropped out in that year. The darker shaded portion is the difference between total enrolled students and those that dropped out.

Minneapolis American Indian MALE Student Dropouts, Grades 9-12
(Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



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Minneapolis American Indian FEMALE Student Dropouts, Grades 9-12
(Source: MN Department of Children and Family Learning)



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